



What can you do to help?

Try this at home

- Choose non-invasive ornamental plants or native species for your garden; ask your nursery for suggestions.
- Scout your property for invasive species and remove them before they become a problem.

Avoid transporting seeds

- Remove all seeds from your clothing and wipe your shoes before leaving any natural area.
- Prevent pets from walking through areas with invasive species.
- Don't camp in weed-infested areas.
- Drive on established roads and hike on designated trails.
- Wash mud or dirt off vehicles before going onto public lands.
- Wash boats, trailers and gear before going to a new river.

Get involved

- Alert people in your neighborhood and place of employment about the problem with invasive species and what to do about them.
- Volunteer to remove invasive plants in parks and natural areas. Yosemite's Habitat Protectors of Yosemite (HaPY) meets Wednesday mornings Memorial Day through Labor Day. Call (209) 379-1012 to sign up.

Highest-priority exotic plants

Himalayan blackberry
Yellow star-thistle
Bull thistle
Common velvet grass
Cheat grass
French broom
Italian thistle
Perennial pepperweed
Spotted knapweed

For more information

Vegetation and Restoration Branch
Resource Management and Science
9736 Chapel Lane
P.O. Box 700
El Portal, CA 95318
Phone: (209) 379-2006

- Habitat Protectors of Yosemite:
www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/hapy.htm
- Invasive Species in the National Parks:
www.nature.nps.gov/biology/invasivespecies
- The Nature Conservancy's website:
<http://tncinvasives.ucdavis.edu/>
- California Invasive Plant Council:
www.cal-ipc.org

Control of Invasive Plants

Why 100,000 hours have been
devoted in Yosemite
to invasive plant removal



Himalayan blackberry forms impenetrable thickets that can entirely replace native vegetation in sensitive habitats like meadows, streamsides, and forest understory.

Goal: Yosemite National Park aims to protect the natural resources from impacts caused by non-native plant species through prevention, control, restoration, and education.



Yellow star-thistle is one of the most invasive plants in Yosemite National Park.

What's the problem?

Invasive plants displace native plants by outcompeting them for water, light, nutrients and space. As native plants are lost, native animals who rely on those plants for food and shelter are threatened. Invasive plants can also negatively affect ecosystems by changing fire intensity and frequency, soil moisture regimes, and by producing thickets of



Timed mowing treatments can decrease yellow star-thistle on the steep slopes of El Portal. Annual mowing before flowering has shown to exhaust plant reserves.

In the NPS: Actions to Help

Employees at each national park work with partner organizations and volunteers in an effort to control invasive species in and around the parks. In addition, 17 Exotic Plant Management Teams have been set up across the country, each tailored to a specific region. These teams assist parks with on-going efforts to remove invasive plants and provide management guidance for invasive plant control in individual parks.

In Yosemite: Managing for Success

Prevention and early detection of invasive plants are the most important and economically feasible ways to control the spread of invasive plants. Additionally, Yosemite National Park Service work crews, park partners and volunteers have contributed 100,000 hours to fight existing infestations. Since 1987, crews have utilized techniques such as hand-pulling, lopping, and mowing to manage the park's most invasive species. (See how to volunteer in Yosemite on the back panel.) Under the 2008 Invasive Plant Management Plan, Yosemite employs two herbicides, glyphosate and aminopyralid, as additional tools to manage the most threatening plants that manual methods have not effectively controlled.

- For more information online, see www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/invasive.htm.

Native plants are plants that have evolved in a given area as part of the ecosystem. Through natural selection, they have adapted to soil, water and climatic conditions as well as to other plants and native wildlife with which they have co-existed for thousands of years. Yosemite hosts approximately 1,340 native plant species.

Exotic plants, also called non-native, alien, or introduced, are plants that were intentionally or accidentally introduced by humans to a location outside their natural range. Many exotic plants brought to Yosemite for cultivation, like Himalayan blackberry, have become naturalized, meaning they now reproduce in the wild. Others, like spotted knapweed, were accidentally introduced. In 2008, a dozen new exotic plant species were identified here. At present, some 190 exotic plants are documented in the park. Fortunately, many do not cause harm to the environment.

Invasive plants are exotic plants that spread aggressively displacing native plants, causing significant ecological or economical damage. Invasive plants did not evolve as part of the ecological community. As a consequence, many of the forces that keep native plant populations in check—such as diseases, pests, and competition with other plant species—do not exist for exotic plants. Yosemite's efforts focus on controlling nine high-priority invasive plants.